

CAPRIMULGUS LONGIPENNIS.



CHARACTER GENERICUS.

Rostrum modice incurvum, minimum, subulatum,
basi depresso.

Vibriffæ ad os serie ciliari.

Rictus ampliffimus.

Lingua acuta, integerrima.

Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 118.

CHARACTER SPECIFICUS.

CAPRIMULGUS GRISEO-VARIUS, alis rufo
fuscoque maculatis, penna utrinque humerali
denudata longiffima.

Conari pro certo dicere quid sibi voluerit arcanum
Naturæ consilium in anomala nonnullorum anima-
lium conformatione, opus esset immensum et omnino
inexplicabile. Enormis Phœnicopteri colli cru-
rumque longitudo, rostrum Avocettæ flexile et re-
curvum, nec non Pinguinariarum alæ breves et velut
squamatæ; hæc omnia facile satis referri possunt ad
vitæ rationem quæ hisce avibus peculiaris est et ac-
commodata. Frustra autem torquebimur quærendo,

D

cuinam

cuinam ufui inferviant pennæ nudæ et prælongæ quas utrinque gerit collum Paradifeæ auratæ; illæve quæ proveniunt a lateribus Paradifeæ apodæ; feu alarum Grylli qui monftrofus dicitur gyri et volumina; aut immodici proceffus alarum Phalænæ macrouræ. Nec feliciter inquiramus quo animo dederit Natura avi quam cernere eft in tabula pennam longiffimam, denudatam, quæ ab humero utroque e medio tectricum minorum exoritur, bis faltem fuperans longitudinem totius avis. Extremitates folæ plumatæ funt, penna ipfa nigra leviffime per totam longitudinem barbata; apicibus plumatis nigricantibus, ter quater cinereo tranfverfe fafciiatis.

Color avis generalis obfcure cinereus, maculis atomisque nigris, rufis, albidisque belle guttatus. Alæ ferrugineæ fafciiis confertis nigricantibus notantur, exceptis tectricibus minoribus. Vertex capitis nigrior reliquo copore. Pectus et abdomen ferrugineo-pallida ftrias habent maculasque plurimas nigricantes tranfverfim ductas. Collum pofticum cingit quafi collare ferrugineum. Alæ paulo longiores cauda cinerea, fafciiis atomisque nigricantibus diftinéta. Pedes exigui; unguis intermedii latere fortiter ferrato. Nova proculdubio eft avis, nec antea defcripta. A Sierra Leona delatum eft fpecimen quod depinximus. Magnitudo eft quafi Sturni vulgaris.



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THE
LEONA GOATSUCKER.



GENERIC CHARACTER.

Bill very small, depressed at the base, slightly hooked.

Mouth extremely wide; the sides furnished with a series of bristles.

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

VARIEGATED GREY GOATSUCKER,
with wings spotted rufous and black, with a very long naked-shafted feather on each shoulder.

In the formation of some animals we meet with particulars so inexplicable as to baffle all attempts at pointing out the purposes for which Nature intended them.

The immoderate length of neck and legs in the Flamingo, the recurved and flexible bill of the Avocet, the short and scaly wings of the Penguin, are evidently calculated for the well-known manner

of life in the respective animals: but it would be in vain to enquire into the particular use of the long, shaft-like feathers which project from each side the neck of the *Paradisea aurata*, or those which hang from the sides of the *Paradisea apoda*: for the strange and uncouth convolutions in the wings of the *Gryllus monstrosus*; or the extravagant processes which terminate those of the *Phalæna macroura*. The bird which forms the subject of the present plate may also be adduced as an equally singular example of the above inexplicable formation; its principal character consisting in the excessively long naked shafts projecting from the upper part of each shoulder, in the midst of the smaller coverts. These remarkable feathers are at least twice the length of the whole bird, and are webbed only at their extremities: the naked or shafted part is black, very slightly bearded on each side the whole length; and the webbed or plumed ends are dusky or blackish with three or four obscure cinereous transverse bars. The general color of the bird is a blackish grey, elegantly variegated with specks of black, rufous, and whitish: the wings are ferruginous, all the feathers, except the smaller coverts, being marked with numerous blackish bars: the top of the head is darker than the rest of the bird: the under parts are pale ferruginous, dashed with dusky bars and patches, and round the back of the neck runs a sort of ferruginous collar or band. The wings reach beyond the tail, which is cinereous, with blackish bars and freckles: the feet are very small, with the middle

middle claw very strongly ferrated on the interior side. This bird is an undoubted non-descript, and is a native of Sierra Leona, from whence the specimen here figured was recently imported. Its size is that of a Starling.